

## THE DISTRICT'S



# SNOW

## REMOVAL PROGRAM



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*District Department of Transportation*

### ***Dear District Resident:***

The District of Columbia begins planning for winter weather months in advance. Equipment must be serviced, vehicles inspected, personnel trained, supplies ordered and snow removal routes evaluated to ensure readiness for the first flake -- or the first icy downpour of freezing rain.

We have developed mobilization plans for winter weather events ranging in severity from a light snowfall to a full-blown blizzard. Each response plan outlined in this brochure will vary somewhat according to the weather forecast, changes in temperature, as well as the severity, length and number of successive storms.

As in other jurisdictions, public safety determines the priority for snow removal in the District. Clearing and salting efforts focus first on major roads, commuter thoroughfares and designated Snow Emergency Routes. Streets that are narrow, steep or shaded receive special attention, as do those streets scheduled for next-day trash collection. Please be patient and allow sufficient time for snow operations to be implemented.

The District's Snow Team is committed to faster completion of plowing and salting along major roads and residential streets, which in turn means more rapid return of normal traffic flow and earlier resumption of trash collection and other city services.

***Thanks! Your DC Snow Team***



## Storm Level I *Snow up to 2 Inches*

(Winter Weather Advisory)

Snowfall of less than 2 inches is not plowed. Major roads and residential streets are continuously treated with salt during snowfall and afterwards, as necessary. Salting is completed on all streets within 4 hours (major roads) to 8 hours (residential streets) after the end of each storm. Quality assurance teams are dispatched to each ward during the storm to assess needs. Trash and recycling collection remains on schedule. Metrobus operations are normal. Service requests for additional street salting will not be taken until 8 hours following the end of the snowfall. Please give us time to cover our routes.



## Storm Level II *2 – 4 Inches of Snow*

(Winter Weather Advisory)

Salting begins on major roads and residential streets as soon as snow starts falling. Plowing begins after an accumulation of more than 2 inches. Plowing to bare pavement is completed on main roads within 6 hours following the end of snowfall. Residential streets will be made passable within 12 hours following the end of the storm, though may not be plowed to bare pavement. Quality assurance teams are dispatched to each ward during the storm to assess needs. Trash and recycling may be delayed but will be collected on the scheduled day. Metrobus operations are normal. Service requests for additional street salting or plowing will not be taken until 12 hours after the end of the storm. Please give us time to cover our routes.

### SNOW TIPS

- \* Use public transportation.
- \* Clear snow from fire hydrants and catch basins.
- \* Put snow in curbside tree boxes, not in the street.



## Storm Level III *Freezing Rain/Ice and LESS than 4 Inches of Snow*

Bridges, ramps and overpasses are pre-treated with de-icer solution. Salting on major roads and residential routes begins with the onset of precipitation and continues throughout the storm until icy conditions improve. Quality assurance teams are dispatched to each ward during the storm to assess needs. Trash and recycling may be delayed but will be collected on the scheduled day. Metrobus operations are near normal. Service requests for additional street salting or plowing will not be taken until 12 hours following the end of the storm. Please give us time to cover our routes.



## Storm Level IV *Freezing Rain/Ice and MORE than 4 Inches of Snow*

Vehicular travel may become treacherous. Commuters and residents are advised to stay at home or use public transportation. Bridges, ramps and overpasses are pre-treated with de-icer solution. Plowing and salting is continuous along major roads and residential routes until conditions improve. Steep or heavily shaded areas may also be treated with abrasives, such as sand. High pedestrian traffic areas, such as bridges and sidewalks, will be cleared manually.

Quality assurance teams are dispatched to each ward during the storm to assess needs. IF a Snow Emergency is declared, all Snow Emergency Routes must be cleared of parked cars. Vehicles blocking Snow Emergency Routes will be ticketed and towed. Trash and recycling service may be delayed or suspended in some areas, depending on severity of conditions. Bulk waste collections are suspended. DPW will call to reschedule appointments. Metrobus operations may be delayed, also depending on road conditions. Service requests for additional street salting or plowing will not be taken until 24 hours following the end of the ice/snow storm. Please give us time to cover our routes.



## Storm Level V 4 – 8 Inches of Snow

(Winter Storm Warning)

As accumulation increases, travel becomes more difficult. Commuters and residents are advised to stay at home or use public transportation. Salting on major roads and residential routes begins with the onset of precipitation and continues throughout the storm. Salting and plowing are completed on through lanes of main roads within 8 hours of the end of the storm. Quality assurance teams are dispatched to each ward during the storm to assess needs. Main roads will be cleared to bare pavement within 12 hours following the storm. Residential streets will be made passable within 24 hours following the storm. High pedestrian traffic areas, such as bridges and sidewalks, will be cleared manually following the storm.

**IF** a Snow Emergency is declared, all Snow Emergency Routes must be cleared of parked cars. Vehicles blocking Snow Emergency Routes will be ticketed and towed. If alleys are impassable, residents with alley trash collection will be instructed to put that day's recyclables and trash at the curb. Do not move trash cans and old waste from the alley. Curb collection may be delayed until streets are passable. Alley collection will be made as soon as conditions permit (alleys are passable). Bulk waste collections are suspended. DPW will call to reschedule appointments. Metrobus operations may be delayed. Service requests for additional street salting or plowing will not be taken until 24 hours following the end of the snowfall. Please give us time to cover our routes.



## Storm Level VI 8 – 12 Inches of Snow

(Winter Storm Warning)

Roads are generally considered dangerous and alleys are impassable. Commuters and residents are urged to stay at home or to use public transportation. Declaration of a Snow Emergency is probable. All Snow Emergency Routes must be cleared of parked cars. Vehicles blocking Snow Emergency Routes will be ticketed and towed.

Major roads and residential streets are continuously plowed and salted. Customers can expect main roads to be cleared within 18 hours after the end of each storm. Most residential streets will be passable within 18 hours to 36 hours after the end of the storm. Quality assurance teams are dispatched to each ward during the storm to assess needs. High pedestrian traffic areas, such as bridges and sidewalks will be cleared manually with shovels and snow blowers following the storm.

Trash collection is suspended until streets and alleys are passable. Bulk waste collections are suspended. DPW will call to reschedule appointments. Metrobus service will be limited to snow emergency routes only with major delays. Service requests for additional street salting or plowing will not be taken until 24 hours following the end of the snowfall. Please give us time to cover our routes.

## SNOW TIPS

- \* If you must drive during a snowstorm, stay at least 35 feet behind a snowplow.
- \* If your street is a designated Snow Emergency Route, move your car when an emergency is declared.
- \* Home/business owners are responsible for clearing the sidewalks and steps adjacent to their property.



## **Storm Level VII 12 - 18 Inches of Snow**

(Winter Storm or Blizzard Warning)

Travel on city streets is strongly discouraged. Further, all designated Snow Emergency Routes must be clear of parked vehicles. Any vehicle left in a Snow Emergency Route will be ticketed and towed.

Major roads and residential streets are continuously plowed and salted until conditions improve. Through lanes on major roads will be cleared within 24 hours to 36 hours following the end of the storm. On most residential streets, at least one lane will be passable within 48 hours following the storm. Quality assurance teams are dispatched during the storm to assess needs. Expect snow packed residential streets. High pedestrian traffic areas, such as bridges and sidewalks will be cleared manually after the storm.

Trash collection is suspended until streets and alleys are passable. Bulk waste collections are suspended. DPW will call to reschedule appointments. Metrobus service will be limited to snow emergency routes only, with major delays. Service requests for additional street salting or plowing will not be taken until 36 hours following the end of the snowfall. Please give us time to cover our routes.



## **Storm Level VIII Over 18 Inches of Snow**

(Blizzard Warning)

**Travel on city streets is strongly discouraged.** Further, all designated Snow Emergency Routes must be clear of parked vehicles. Any vehicle left in a Snow Emergency Route will be ticketed and towed.

Plowing and salting are continuous throughout the storm. Through lanes on major roads will be passable within 36 hours following the end of the storm. On most residential streets, at least one lane will be passable within 60 hours following the storm. Quality assurance teams are dispatched during the storm to assess needs. Expect snow packed residential streets. High pedestrian traffic areas, such as bridges and sidewalks will be cleared manually following the storm.

Trash collection is suspended until streets and alleys are passable. Bulk waste collections are suspended. DPW will call to reschedule appointments. Metrobus service will be limited to snow emergency routes only, with major delays. Service requests for additional street salting or plowing will not be taken until 60 hours following the end of the snowfall. Please give us time to cover our routes.

### **ATTENTION PROPERTY OWNERS:**

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District law requires all property owners to clear snow and ice from sidewalks and steps adjacent to your property within the first 8 hours of daylight after snow, freezing rain or sleet stops falling. If ice cannot be completely cleared, spread sand to make the sidewalk safe.

## WEATHER TERMS

### WATCH

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A forecast issued **in advance** of a severe weather event to alert the public of the possibility of a particular hazard, such as ice storms, heavy snows, tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods.

### ADVISORY

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Cautionary statements issued by the National Weather Service to signify probable weather conditions leading to situations of possible hazard. Examples include Snow Advisories stating possible slick streets, or Fog Advisories warning motorists of limited visibility.

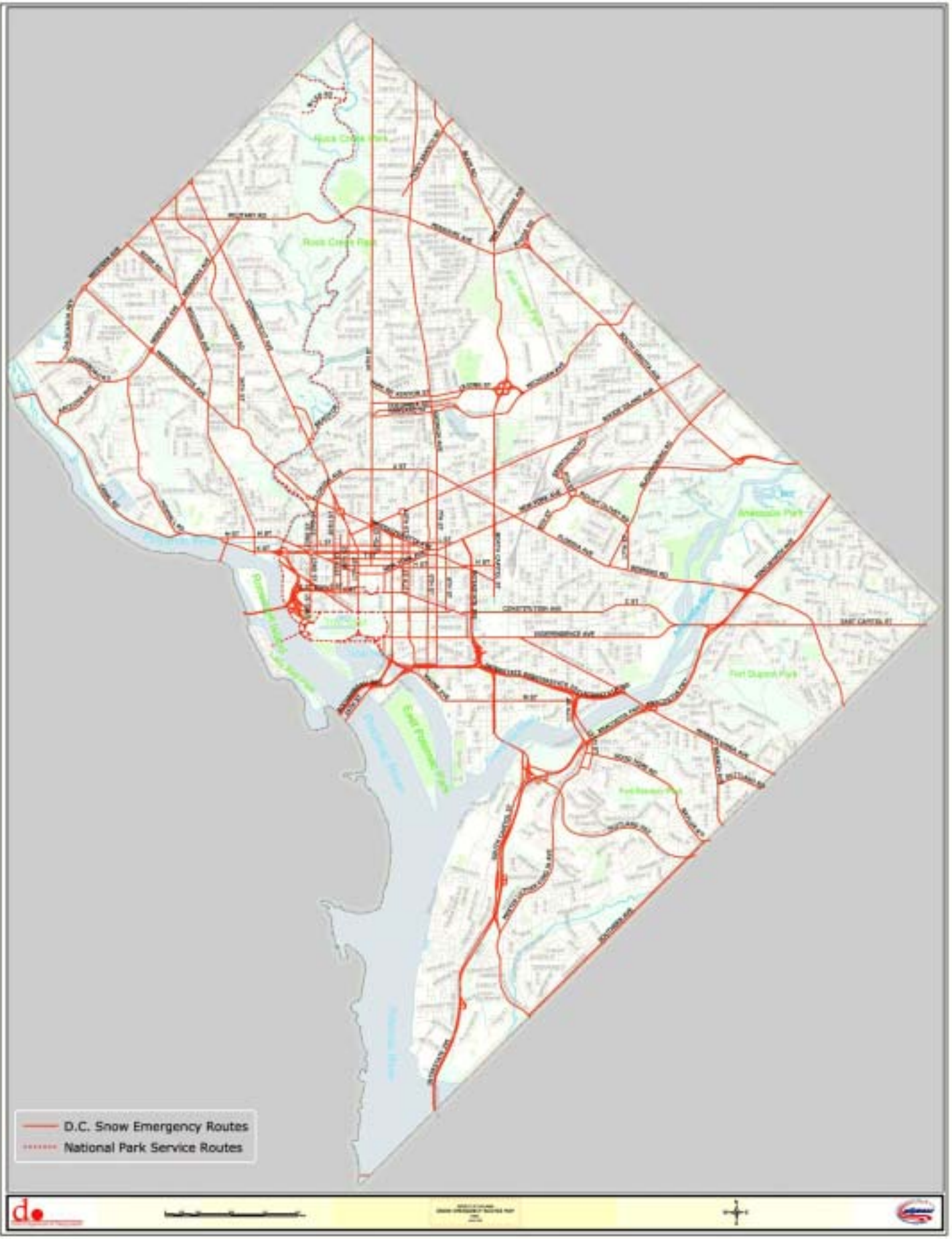
### WARNING

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A forecast issued when severe weather has developed or is **already occurring**. Warnings specify a particular hazard or imminent danger, such as winter storms, heavy snows, tornadoes, flash floods, etc.







— D.C. Snow Emergency Routes  
- - - - - National Park Service Routes